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GARRY HAVES WESTERN THE SOUP A Gabby Hayes Tall Tale

By Rod Reed

Well, sir, they had the varmint, but they didn't have the lost. And Slim kept asking and

W. fellers and pirks let's nertend we're all bunkered down around a blazing campfire, somewheres out on the prairie. There's the curet smell of wood smoke all around us and prairie dogs a-howling, mountul-like, up in the hills. And yore old Uncle Gabby is gonna tell to you the story about Wild Willis Wineer, the meanest, dead-shootingest hombre that ever

forked a cayuse. Wild Willia Winger wasn't his real name. Most likely, when he was a baby, his mama expected him to grow up to be something important, like President of the United States or Foreman of the Bar Nothing Ranch, so she named him William or Wilbert or Wilbertorce. But when he got to be an outhout, he kere hus last name secret like all those shameful var-

mints do. Somebody hung that handle, "Winger," onto him from the way he could aim a gun. He could bring down a burgard on the wing without ever saking has Colt owen from his his Me was probably the second-best shot in the West, and no doubt he'd have been the best if I wasn't Wild Wilhe Winger could have been a fa-

mous man if he had stayed on the right side of the law. He could've been a famous United States Marshal or semething And before I no any farther, let me give you kids a piece of advice that is better than solid gold: Stay out of fail! You can do that by always obssing the law, and you can take it from Gabby Haves, a wil is a terrible place to be in I was there once.

Here's how it came about. Slim Daggle, the sheriff of Rawbide, fetally ketched Wild Willie after he had robbed the Eureka Mining Company office. (I would have ketched him, myself. only I was have at the time testing some onion soup that Aunt Hester had made by a new

recipe.)

soking Willie where he had cached the boodle from the Eureka Mining Company, but Willie just wouldn't tell him, nohow. That's when I not one of my brainy ideas

"Slim," I said, "this hombre doesn't know me by sight. Why don't you gut me in the cell with him? Make out like I'm a hadman. I'll tell he'll want to go pards with me, and then he'll tell me where his loss is hid?"

The sheriff agreed that it might work. Se he grabbed me by the collar and noked ma in the ribs with his gun and hustled me toward the cell where Wild Willie was cared up. And as he pushed me through the cell door, Bodlong, his assistant, gave me a kick that sent me sprawling. Bedkins said after that he just did it for the sake of realism, but I not a notice Bodkins really enjoyed giving me that boot. He has always been jealous of me, but I rackon a

man as great and famous as Gabby Hayes has to expect a mite of jenlousy here and thera. Anyway, when I was alone in the cell with Wild Willie Winger, I told him I had a right smart but of money standed away in a good place. This was not a fib. I had it attached in

the National Bank of Rawhide My cellmate said. "I think you're full of hot air, you old cost !"

I growled back, "Don't talk tough with me or I'll tear you apart. You may be Wild Willie to some people, but to me you ldok like a Sweet William!"

He turned me then and grabbed at my throat. But I didn't haller for help. Besides, I couldn't on account of his thumb on my wandnine. After Purple Face, don't ever call me that again, or I'll choke you to death. The only reason I don't do it now in that the sheriff might raise a fuse

I didn't sall him "Sweet William" again, but of course, I would have if I'd wanted to. out. You've got to tell me first where you've We were in that cell together for quite a cached your loot." "I recken that's fair." he said. He led the snell and all we got to eat was bread and water. I complained about it but Bodkins said, "You way up a narrow, stony trail to Suicide Rock. He dismounted, I did the same. He polled a

GARBY HAYES WESTERN

should."

sidewinders are eating off the taxpavers. You're enough expense as it is. This is all you get!" He kind of chuckled as he said it. But finally Aunt Heuter heard I was in iail and she baked a cake and brought it herself

about having a corpse in his nice, elean cell. I

hate to come trouble for the sheriff."

Well even Rodkins couldn't stop Aunt Hester She wanted me to have that cake and she brought it, and I got it. She sounded very sad when she snoke to me through the bers, saving she hoped I would mend my ways and not be an outlaw again, First . I thought it was a very road art and then at came to me all of a sudden. Hester wasn't in on the trick! She

Of course, I couldn't explain to her and give the plan away. As soon as she was gone, I broke the cake in two and gave half of it to Wild Willie. I bit into my half hard. I wen mighty bengry! And I dong near broke my law! I bit right smack, spang into a file that Aunt Hester

thought I really was a jailbard!

had hid in my cake! While I was still howling with pain, the cake and file fell to the floor. Wild Willie saw that file and his eyes lighted up. "Coot?" he exclaimed, "you just got yourself a pard! As soon as it's dark, we'll go to work on the cell bers

with that there file and we'll be out, of here before meening!" Friends, you know me. The last thing in the world I wanted was to help Wild Willie escape

from the caleboose. But there wasn't anything I could do to stop him without giving the whole thing away. And I still hadn't found out where he hid his boodle

So we took turns filing away at those cell here and when we not them loose from the window, we speaked out. We becrowed a couple of horses and started heading for the foothills. Once when I looked back I thought I saw somehady following us, but I reckoned it was only wishful thinking. After we were well out of rown. Willie said, "Cost, I've got to hand it to you. You got us out of that place. Now tell me where you've got your money hid and if I told him my lost was hid in the Rawhide National Bank he would sure have plussed me Wild Willie was not the type of hombre to I was trying to think what to tell him, when there was a "Swoosh!" and a "Splash!" and Winger let out a yell, dropped his guns, and Of course, I was just as surprised by all this

we'll get it and divvy it up the way pards

"Oh no!" I said. "I'm the one that got us

stone away from under Suicide Rock, saying,

"I've got the stuff hid in here. I also have this!"

got a gun out from his hiding place. It was

pointed at me. "Now," he said, "you tell me

where your loot is hid. And if you don't-well.

Believe me, pards, I was in a real spot! I didn't have a gun so I couldn't fight back. And

I sin't called Winger for nothing!"

As he moke he whirled, I saw that he had

berge swebbing at his aves with his hands. as he was. But, being a man of action, I grabbed up his run and had it trained on him by the time his eyes were cleared. And that's when Aunt Hester stepped into the scene. She was, as you could essily figure out, the only one who would know we'd break teil that night. She had watched and had followed us. She was beinging me a pail of onion soup. And when she saw Wild Willie pointing his gun at me.

she slooped that whole pail of onion soup right into bis eyes. THE EUREKA COMPANY gave a big reward for the capture of Wild Wilhe Winger and the recovery of the loot. I lat Aunt Hester have the reward money. She made a

big, fresh pot of onion soup and after a diet of bread and water-that was reward enough for

Be sure to read the GABBY HAYES TALL TALE such month in GABBY HAYES





GABBY HAYES WESTERN THE FIGHTING







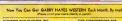












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